LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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November 20, 2006

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Mayor Michael D. Antonovich Supervisor Gloria Molina Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: JOHN SPILLANE

Chief Deputy District Attorne

SUBJECT: SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT FOR

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

It has come to my attention that the Board is considering entering into a sole source contract with a Mr. Shay Bilchik to develop a "blueprint" for the juvenile justice system. To my knowledge, no member of this office was contacted regarding the proposed contract and/or our possible participation in the proposed program. As a major stake holder in the juvenile justice system, I ask the Board to consider delaying the implementation of this endeavor until all interested parties are fully consulted.

There is always room for improvement; and the delinquency system, justice and rehabilitation are no exception. But before the Board brings in outside consultants unfamiliar with Los Angeles County, it should perhaps consider other alternatives for addressing the issue. For example, the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) could very well serve as the vehicle to examine the problems/solutions/improvements to the juvenile system. The mission of the CCJCC is to promote improvements in the local criminal justice system and to foster interagency cooperation and coordination. The District Attorney's Office would gladly provide assistance to the CCJCC if such an inquiry were to be pursued.

Before the Board spends very substantial taxpayer funds on a noncompetitive contract for a nebulous program of unknown parameters, the relevant stakeholders should be required to provide the Board with alternatives. My staff and I are willing to discuss this with the Board and/or your justice deputies.

cmh